

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) An electrical connector adapted to be connected to a cable having a plurality of wires, comprising:

a casing including an intake for receiving said cable;

a contact holder for each of said wires removably received within said casing and including [a receptacle] plural receptacles;

a connector assembly seated in each of said receptacles for connecting to an associated one of said wires, each connector assembly including:

a conductive band defining an opening sized to receive an associated wire and first and second opposing portions, said first opposing portion defining an internally threaded aperture, wherein said conductive band is generally rectilinear having four walls defining said opening and wherein said opposing portions thereof are walls;

a threaded member received in said internally threaded aperture of said conductive band; and

a contact element adapted to be connected to a mating connector and received in said opening of an associated conductive band adjacent said threaded member, wherein said contact element is a generally flat metal member having first and second depending legs spaced apart to receive in electrical contacting relation a connector element [of a] of said mating connector, said contact element further comprising a tab extending upwardly above its associated conductive band;

whereby when a wire is placed in said [central] opening of said conductive band between said second portion of said conductive band and said contact, and said threaded member is tightened, said threaded member forces said contact element against said inserted wire to establish electrical continuity between a wire of said cable and an associated contact element of said connector; and

a printed circuit board receiving in electrical contacting relation the tab of said contact element.

2. (Currently amended) The connector of claim 1 wherein said first and second spaced legs of said contact element have facing edges, each of said edges being provided with a pad for engaging and establishing electrical continuity with [a connector element of a] said connector element of said mating connector.

3. (Currently amended) The connector of claim 1 wherein said contact element further includes a central portion adapted to be engaged by a distal end of an associated threaded member for applying a compressive holding force to said wire against said second opposing portion of said conductive band.

4. (Original) The connector of claim 3 wherein said central portion of said contact element includes a barbed section for engaging opposing walls of a receptacle of said contact holder to secure said contact element in said contact holder.

5. (Previously amended) The connector of claim 3 wherein said central portion of a contact element further includes first and second outwardly extending tabs adapted to engage shoulder portions of an associated receptacle of said contact holder when inserted therein for

In re appln. of Riccardo Comini
Serial No. 10/749,717

locating said contact element within said contact holder, said connector further including a retainer covering the top of said tabs to prevent displacement of said contact out of said receptacle.

6. (Canceled)

7. (Canceled)

8. (Canceled)

9. (Currently amended) An electrical connector adapted to be connected to a cable

having a plurality of wires, comprising:

a casing including an intake for receiving said cable;

a contact holder for each of said wires removably received within said casing and including plural receptacles;

a connector assembly seated in each of said receptacles for connecting to an associated one of said wires, each connector assembly including:

a conductive band defining an opening sized to receive an associated wire and first and second opposing portions, said first opposing portion defining an internally threaded aperture;

a threaded member received in said internally threaded aperture of said conductive band; and

a contact element adapted to be connected to a mating connector and received in said opening of an associated conductive band adjacent said threaded member, wherein said contact element is a generally flat metal member having first and second depending legs spaced apart to receive in electrical contacting relation a

In re appln. of Riccardo Comini
Serial No. 10/749,717

connector element of said mating connector;

a fastener for securing said casing and said contact holder to a body supporting said mating connector;

whereby when a wire is placed in said opening of said conductive band between said second portion of said conductive band and said contact, and said threaded member is tightened, said threaded member forces said contact element against said inserted wire to establish electrical continuity between a wire of said cable and an associated contact element of said connector, and [The connector of claim 8] wherein said contact holder includes an upright portion adapted to receive said fastener and defining a pedestal having a base; and

[said connector further including] a retainer having barbs adapted to extend downwardly into said contact holder and securing to said base of said pedestal for securing said conductive bands in said contact holder.

10. (Canceled)

11. (Currently amended) An electrical connector adapted to be connected to a cable having a plurality of wires, comprising:

a casing including an intake for receiving said cable, said cable intake including means for sealing said cable to said intake;

a contact holder for each of said wires removably received within said casing and including plural receptacles;

a connector assembly seated in each of said receptacles for connecting to an associated one of said wires, each connector assembly including:

a conductive band defining an opening sized to receive an associated wire
and first and second opposing portions, said first opposing portion defining an
internally threaded aperture;

a threaded member received in said internally threaded aperture of said
conductive band; and

a contact element adapted to be connected to a mating connector and
received in said opening of an associated conductive band adjacent said threaded
member, wherein said contact element is a generally flat metal member having first
and second depending legs spaced apart to receive in electrical contacting relation a
connector element of said mating connector;

whereby when a wire is placed in said opening of said conductive band between
said second portion of said conductive band and said contact, and said threaded member is
tightened, said threaded member forces said contact element against said inserted wire to establish
electrical continuity between a wire of said cable and an associated contact element of said
connector; and

[The connector of claim 10] wherein said sealing means includes an externally threaded coupling nut and a grommet adapted to be received [over a cable;] over said cable and said coupling nut [being] is threadedly received by said cable intake to force said grommet into sealing relation with said cable.

12. (Original) The connector of claim 1 including four individual conductive bands arranged in quadrature about said contact holder and each adapted to receive a respective contact

In re appln. of Riccardo Comini
Serial No. 10/749,717

element of a mating connector through a bottom face of said contact holder.

13. (Original) The connector of claim 12 wherein said contact holder defines a lower central cavity, said connector further including a gasket retainer including a peripheral flange for sealing a bottom portion of said casing to a body securing said mating connector;

said gasket retainer including an extending portion adapted to be received in and releaseably secured within said cavity of said contact holder.